

***APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON
JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION***

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED.***
INFORMATION IS REQUESTED TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS
FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS.**

Name: Denise Terry Stapleton

Date of Birth: 9/30/1958

Race: Caucasian Gender: Female

Office Address: 918 West First North Street
Morristown, TN 37815

Office Phone: 423-586-5800

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Email Address: denise@ttands.com

Home Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

County of
Residence: Hamblen

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Cellular Phone: [REDACTED]

1. Indicate your present employment.

Terry, Terry & Stapleton

- 2.

- a. If you are an attorney, state the year you were licensed to practice law in Tennessee and provide your BPR Number.

Tennessee, 1987; BPR #012478

- b. If you are an attorney, identify your primary subject area(s) of practice, present and past.

Personal injury, criminal, medical malpractice, domestic relations, product liability and Social Security

3. Please indicate the amount of time that you have been a citizen of the state of Tennessee.

50 years

4. List the county or counties in which you have resided in the past year.

Hamblen

5. Are you a salaried office holder of the State of Tennessee or the United States?

☐ Yes ☒ No

6. If your response to question 5 was yes, are you a member of the national guard, member of any armed forces reserve organization, district attorney general or employee of a district attorney general, district public defender or employee of a district public defender?

Not applicable.

7. Have you ever pled guilty or been convicted or are you now on diversion for violation of any law, regulation or ordinance (other than traffic related offenses such as speeding, seatbelt, violations or parking tickets)? Give date, court, charge and disposition.

No

8. To your knowledge, are you now under federal, state or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute or disciplinary rule? If so, give details.

No

9. Please explain why you would like to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission and why you would be an effective member. **(300 words or less)**

I would like to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission because I am deeply concerned and dedicated to the legal profession.

I feel as though our judiciary plays the most critical role in our legal profession.

If we do not have persons of integrity, strength, professionalism and strong work ethic, the strength of our judicial system is compromised.

As an advocate who has represented clients in a number of courts for a wide range of issues, I have come to recognize that those people charged with making the ultimate decisions in the cases have, perhaps not only the most important responsibility in the law, but in our society. The decisions that they make effect not only the lives of our clients and the parties, but of every man, woman and child in Tennessee whether in a criminal court setting or in a civil case seeking damages to make clients whole or in a dispute in which constitution rights are at stake. These decisions impact us in enumerable ways. I have seen the temperament and level of experience that is necessary to equip people who wear the black robe to fulfill the awesome responsibility or to make the countless decisions that they are charged with making on a daily basis in an efficient and just manner.

The judiciary has an important indirect responsibility in that they have the ability to require competence and respect by attorneys and litigants in the courtroom and within the legal process. The decorum that our judicial system demands can not be maintained unless the judiciary has the strength and steadfastness to enforce the level of professionalism and respect which is required to maintain the integrity and honor of our judicial system.

I am admitted to practice law in both Tennessee state and Federal courts. I have practiced law in Hamblen, Grainger, Cocke, Knox, Sevier, Jefferson, Claiborne, Hancock, Greene, Hawkins, Washington and Sullivan counties in all courts (Chancery, Circuit, Probate and Criminal). I have appeared before hundreds of Judges which has allowed me to observe and have a tremendous perspective concerning our judiciary. I have also practiced in Federal court in Knoxville and Greeneville. I have had thousands of bench trials and approximately 70 jury trials. I have four reported cases. (State v. Carter, 889 S.W.2d 231 (Tenn. Crim. App. 1994); Simmons v. Simmons, 900 S.W.2d 682 (Tenn. 1995); Emery v. Southern Railway Company, 866 S.W.2d 557 (Tenn. App. 1993); and State v. Shuck, 953 S.W.2d 662 (Tenn. 1997).

I am proud to be a member and past president of the American Board of Trial Advocates which is an organization made up of plaintiff and defense lawyers. Our purpose is to celebrate and protect our 7th Amendment right to a trial by jury. Admission is by invitation only and you must have a high level of trial experience to be admitted. ABOTA also promotes principles of civility, integrity and professionalism among attorneys.

I also serve as a panel member for the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility wherein I along with other panel members are charged with the responsibility of making decisions concerning disciplining attorneys.

10. The Lieutenant Governor (Speaker of the Senate) and the Speaker of the House both have appointments to the Judicial Nominating Commission. Please indicate to which office you would like your application to be sent for consideration.

- ☐ Lieutenant Governor
- ☒ Speaker of the House
- ☐ Both Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House

11. I certify that all information contained in this application is correct.

- ☒ I am not employed as a lobbyist.
- ☒ I am not an employer of a lobbyist.
- ☒ I do not hold office in any political party or political organization.

Dated this the 5th day of May, 2011.


Denise Terry Stapleton